

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-54 are pending. By this amendment, Applicant proposes to amend independent claims 1-20, 27, 31, 33, and 44. These amendments respond to the decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences ("the Board") on October 10, 2007. The Board provided a new ground of rejection of claims 1-20 under § 101; of claims 31 and 32 under § 112, second paragraph; and of claims 27-30, 33-39, and 44-50 under § 102 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,995,991 to Huang et al. ("Huang").

**I. Regarding the rejection under § 101**

Applicant amends claims 1-20 consistent with In re Lowry, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994), as suggested by the Board. Decision on Appeal at 10. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-20, as amended, fully comply with the statutory requirements of § 101. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-20 under § 101.

**II. Regarding the rejection under § 112**

Applicant amends claims 31 and 32 to provide antecedent basis for "the floating point instruction," as suggested by the Board. Decision on Appeal at 10. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 31 and 32, as amended, fully comply with the statutory requirements of § 112. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 31 and 32 under § 112.

**III. Regarding the rejection under § 102**

Applicant amends independent claims 27, 33, and 44 to "distinguish over the cited prior art" by requiring "a single resulting floating point operand that contains

distinct parts which represent a value and encoded status information," as suggested by the Board. Decision on Appeal at 8, fn 1. Claims 28-30, 34-39, and 45-50 depend from independent claims 27, 33, or 44 and therefore include all of the elements recited therein. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 27-30, 33-39, and 44-50 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application.

Applicant also amends claim 21 to improve form or grammar and not for reasons related to patentability.

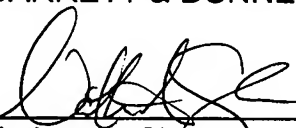
Applicant therefore requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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